

CONTRACTORS FACE LARGE PENALTIES

Chief Hepburn Says Holders Are More Negligent This Month Than Last

VARE TO PROTEST TODAY

Streets Little Better. Chief Hepburn Admits

Chief Hepburn said today that a slight improvement in the condition of the city streets was noticeable. "They are still very bad, however," he said, "and much of the improvement may be credited to the weather."

The nine contractors who appear before Director Winston to protest against fines of \$10,000 will have a hard time convincing the director of the injustice of the fines, the chief said.

Street-cleaning contractors, given a chance today to protest against fines of \$10,000 levied for alleged dereliction on contracts during January, face far greater fines for like offenses this month.

Chief Hepburn, of the street-cleaning bureau, says contractors were more this month than all of last, and the contractors will be fined accordingly.

The contractors say they will fight the \$10,000 fines bitterly. Senator Vare, who holds the contracts for cleaning the downtown streets and faces fines of about \$5,000, will make a determined stand against payment, it is understood.

Senator Vare and the other contractors will be put "on the mat" by Director Winston of the Department of Public Works, today. Director Winston says he is prepared to show the justice of the fines by evidence collected by inspectors.

Mayor's Ultimatum

As it was for January, Senator Vare is expected to face the highest fines for February. Mayor Moore toured the downtown streets and found their condition so dirty that he issued an ultimatum to the contractor to clean them up or the city would hire men and equipment to do the work and charge it up to the contractor.

Senator Vare has every available man and every available bit of equipment at work today. And the other municipal contractors, taking the tip, also are making every possible effort to get the streets cleaned.

Chief Hepburn says no contractor has offered his books to the city. He has charged the charge that all of the municipal contractors are making 100 per cent. All volunteered to show their books, he said, but none has come forward with them.

The Department of Health will institute prosecutions within a few days against persons guilty of littering up the streets.

Grip Danger Seen. The importance of forcing the street contractors to clean up the city's streets, especially in South Philadelphia, and to keep them properly cleaned hereafter, was emphasized by the Bureau of Health in commenting on the grip situation.

The suggestion that the city may acquire a municipal asphalt plant and operate it in competition with the contractors caused the latter a decided shock. It is said, when the news was made public, that the contractors were so shocked that they had been talking of a move for a number of years it was not generally known that the plans for an asphalt plant had been completed, and that Director Winston is ready to ask Council to provide \$175,000 to cover the cost of installing it in the city.

By the street contractors, it is regarded as the first real step toward the taking over by the city of all of its street work, including the cleaning of the highways. The realization that the prospect of losing the profitable city contracts is growing more definite, it is said, and had a decided influence on the activities shown yesterday.

MERION JUSTICES ILL, SNOW CASES DELAYED

John R. K. Scott and 24 Other Property Owners Failed to Clear Sidewalks

The illness of two magistrates today caused a postponement of the hearing of twenty-five Lower Merion property owners, including John R. K. Scott, summoned because snow was not removed from the footwalks of their properties.

A representative of Mr. Scott called at the Ardmore station at 8 o'clock this morning. Chief Donaghy had not yet arrived. The agent telephoned the chief and was informed the hearing, scheduled for 10 o'clock, would not be held.

Mr. Donaghy had been assured that the snow had been shoveled off anyhow, he told Mr. Scott's representative. He did not wait for the hearing, the station house at 10 o'clock were told the same thing.

The police explained that Richard T. Lewis and Howard S. Killgallon, Lower Merion magistrates, were both confined to their homes by colds.

Chief Donaghy had no authority to dismiss the complaints, he told the owners, but he invited them to return to their homes or offices.

SNOW SHUTS COAL MINES

Anthracite Output Cut 85 Per Cent at Hazleton

Hazleton, Pa., Feb. 16.—(By A. P.)—Only five mines in the Hazleton district were operating today. The anthracite coal output has been cut 85 per cent as a result of the blockade caused by a week-end snowstorm.

CAUGHT MAKING WINE

Five Men Arrested for Alleged Violation of Dry Law

Morrisstown, N. J., Feb. 16.—(By A. P.)—Five men were arrested today in a raid on the home of John Pollicino, where a wine press and barrel of wine were seized. All are charged with violation of the national prohibition law.

MEXICAN BANDITS HOLDING AMERICAN

Demand Ransom for Mine Superintendent—U. S. Urges Carranza to Act

Washington, Feb. 16.—(By A. P.)—Wilson Welsh Adams, an American, has been captured by bandits in Zacatecas, Mexico, and is being held for \$50,000 ransom, the State Department was advised today.

Adams' home is in Los Angeles, where his wife and child now live. The American embassy at Mexico City has been instructed by the State Department to bring the kidnapping to the attention of the Mexican authorities, who are advised every step be taken to secure Adams' release.

The American representatives at Zacatecas and Monterrey, in reporting the incident and the authorities in Zacatecas were endeavoring to learn the whereabouts of Adams and his captors and that three columns of Mexican troops had been sent out.

The bandits were reported to have looted the warehouse of the Providencia Mine, operated by the Minerals and Metals Co., an American concern. Adams was superintendent of the mine.

HUNT UNION TOWN DOCTOR'S SLAYERS

Finding of Dismembered Body Starts Search for Enemies Among Dry Law Violators

Uniontown, Pa., Feb. 16.—The dismembered body of a man found yesterday in a field near Uniontown, twelve miles west of here, was identified today as that of Dr. David Gilmer, aged 45, prominent Rockwood and Pittsburgh physician who disappeared mysteriously more than three months ago.

The physician left home late at night last November to answer a call and never returned. Persons seeking vengeance because the physician had threatened them with prosecution unless they ceased selling liquor illegally are believed to have slain and murdered Doctor Gilmer, later dismembering the body and submitting it to a shallow pond.

The crime was disclosed late yesterday when a dog dragged a human foot up to the residence of Joseph Ross. Later the dog led most county authorities to the body. A watch and a physician's thermometer, found in the clothing, established identity.

Immediate police investigation of the body police instituted search for the driver of a taxicab in which Doctor Gilmer rode the night of his disappearance.

Shortly after the wartime prohibition law went into effect, Doctor Gilmer is said to have obtained information that certain foreigners were selling liquor illegally. He was believed to have caused their arrest. Since his disappearance it has been believed that enemies made in this way were responsible.

When I got to the station house I was told by the prisoners, I went to Lieutenant Stinger in command of the district, and asked him where the prisoners were. Stinger told me he had sent them up to Magistrate Renshaw.

Prisoners Were Transferred. "Then the lieutenant added that he had transferred the prisoners at the request of a political leader. He said the leader had told him he didn't want the defendants arranged before me."

Stinger then denied he had asked Carney to discharge Orlando. "Orlando is a friend of mine," the lieutenant stated, "and I did for him the same thing I did for you."

Stinger then said he had asked Carney to allow the man to sign his own bail bond.

"Orlando is worth probably about \$15,000 and owns several houses. He was arranged on the day the hearing began and I didn't think it was right to send him to Moyamensing prison."

Anyway, Carney did exactly what I asked him to do. He allowed him to sign his own bond for a further hearing. As for Carney saying I called him a name, that is not so.

Carney and his friends are trying to frame me up. I am the only lieutenant in South Philadelphia who has not been transferred. I have been on the force for twenty-two years, and I never have been discharged, they are trying to frame me up for the last eighteen months.

It is true that I sent prisoners on Saturday to Magistrate Renshaw at the request of the Fitzgibbon hearing. I did it because I didn't think I would get a square deal from Carney. On the day before a woman was arrested before Carney at this station house. Two business men accused her of assault and battery.

Carney discharged the woman and held the two complainants for assault and battery. Although there was no warrant for them, he ordered them locked up, and they were put in cells. When I reached the station house I took them from the cells and allowed them to sit in the room.

Magistrate Baker was informed today of Carney's assertion that Baker had Orlando come to his private office for the further hearing, despite the fact that he was Carney's prisoner.

"I was sick," Baker explained, "and Carney was filling in for me the first time Orlando was given a hearing. I instructed that prisoners including Orlando, but not singling him out especially, should be brought to my office for hearings."

When Orlando came to me for his further hearing a police witness told me the man had been held by the United States commissioner. There was nothing for me to do but discharge him. No lieutenant Stinger had not spoken to me about the case."

Magistrate Edward P. Carney said today he would inform Director of Public Safety Abert and the United States district attorney of the alleged offenses made by a police lieutenant to obtain freedom for a man accused of the murder of Stinger.

Lieutenant George Stinger, of the Twentieth and Federal streets station, Carney asserted, interfered with him for the discharge of Gaetano Orlando, a former saloonkeeper of Twelfth and Moore streets.

According to Magistrate Carney, Stinger left his own district and went in a taxicab to Third and Dickinson streets station. That was on February 4, he said, after Orlando had been arrested by the police of the Dickinson Street station and charged with bootlegging.

Magistrate Carl Baker, who is assigned to that station house, was ill at the time and the district attorney elected last November on the Charter party ticket, to substitute for him.

Carney Says Stinger Phoned. "Stinger missed me at the Third and Dickinson street station," said Carney today. "He telephoned to me at the Dickinson Street station, where I was holding hearings, Orlando and other prisoners had been taken over to the Snyder avenue station."

Later the day he phoned the telephone, Carney continued, "he told me he was deeply interested in Orlando. He is a friend of mine," the lieutenant said. Stinger added that he told him that Orlando would allow and that he wanted him discharged.

When I told Stinger that the Twenty-fifth district police wanted him, he said he was going to the lieutenant and he would look well in print. I hung up the receiver as he was still talking.

A HOUSE OF ORNAMENTAL LIQUOR HEARING

Magistrate Carney Says Police Lieutenant Stinger Sought Accused Bootlegger's Release

ASSERTS LEADERS MEDDLED

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Stinger called me up again while I was at the Twentieth and Buttonwood streets station and tried to have me release Orlando from Rockwood street, where I was holding hearings, Orlando and other prisoners had been taken over to the Snyder avenue station."

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TRICE MITTANT PLEADS NOT GUILTY

Trial of Echtermeyer Begins Before Civil Service Commission

CAPTAIN GIVES EVIDENCE

Lieutenant John Echtermeyer, suspended police commander of the Second and Christian streets station, pleaded "not guilty" to charges of dereliction of duty, when his trial opened before the Civil Service Commission in City Hall today.

J. Washington Logue, Echtermeyer's attorney, attempted to halt the proceedings by contending that the charges were not clear and insufficient. The effort failed.

Commissioners Woodruff and Neeld and Police Captain Tempest comprise the tribunal before which Echtermeyer is being tried. The proceedings are taking place in the office of the registration commission, Room 320.

Charges against the police officer are: Failure to report the conviction of Patrolman Abraham Schwartz on a charge of conspiracy.

Allowing disorderly houses to operate in his district.

Reporting disorderly houses as soft-drink and cigar stores.

Police Captain Patrolman McCaugh, in charge of the district at the time of Echtermeyer's alleged failure to fulfill his duty, testified that the first intimation of the charges came through an anonymous letter.

Captain McCaugh said this was some time in October. He said he started an investigation which revealed that Echtermeyer was not until December 3, Captain McCaugh said, that Echtermeyer reported that the places had been quarantined.

Public Safety Cortelyou and Superintendent of Police Robinson were in court to testify, but were excused by the commissioner until such a time as they would be needed.

Harry Felix appeared as attorney for the police department.

The courtroom was crowded. Several witnesses were called to the stand by the Echtermeyer case was adjourned at 11 o'clock until 2. In the interim the commissioners heard testimony in the case of Patrolman McCaugh and Samuel W. Morris.

Sergeants Mooney and Ferris were put on the stand by the prosecuting attorney and denied all allegations of brutality on the part of Schwartz when he arrested Doctor Morris in front of his father's moving picture theatre crowd. They said Doctor Morris told them he was not injured when they took him to the police station.

Called Him "Cheap Guy". Schwartz testified that he was standing in line to buy a ticket to the theatre, when some one in back of him called him a "cheap guy." He turned around, he said, and was struck in the eye by a moving picture camera. Doctor Morris then said he would have Schwartz arrested, the latter testified, and the rumour followed.

The patrolman said he was followed to the patrol box and was struck again. He recognized Burke as the man who hit him, he said, and arrested him. Schwartz said that Burke had written before he was arrested, "Doctor Morris told me he would have Schwartz arrested, the latter testified, and the rumour followed."

Twenty witnesses are expected to testify in the Echtermeyer case.

FAVORS NEW COINAGE PLAN

University Authority Tells House Committee Scheme's Benefits

Washington, Feb. 16.—America's currency system was described as "bit-metallic dabbling" today by Dr. Jacob H. Hollander, professor of political economy at Johns Hopkins university, during hearings before the subcommittee of the House banking and currency committee on the bill of Representative McFadden to reduce the standard of subsidiary silver coinage.

"There are three distinct reasons for the passage of the measure," Doctor Hollander said. "The first is that it will establish our currency system upon an unquenchable basis. The second is that it will permit the reduction to a corresponding extent of the country's very considerable floating debt without any tax raising or any other burden upon the tax receipts of future years. The third reason is that it will effect a gradual and salutary correction of our present inflated circulation medium by the use of a metal coinage."

The bill would reduce the standard of subsidiary silver coinage from 900 to 800 grains of silver. It would also reduce the standard of the half dollar from 1200 to 1100 grains of silver.

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ACCUSES GREAT BRITAIN

Representative Demands Probe of "Monroe Doctrine Violation"

Washington, Feb. 16.—(By A. P.)—Charging that Great Britain had violated the Monroe Doctrine by interfering with the shipping of German steamships to the former German steamship Bahia Blanca, with consignments for the North American importing companies, Representative Britten introduced resolution today asking the State Department to make a full investigation.

"It was a common practice of Great Britain to violate the Monroe Doctrine in American rights on the high seas prior to the American participation in the European war under the guise of a necessity," the resolution said, "and it must now be evident to all nations alike that the government of the United States will not countenance interference with American trade except through proper American diplomatic channels."

The resolution was introduced by Representative Britten, of Pennsylvania, and was referred to the committee on international relations.

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HALT WATER WASTE, WARNS THE MAYOR

Blames Condition Partly on Neglect Following Hasty Sale of Homes

HEARSIES UP TRANS

Six-Inch Layer at Buffalo, With Zero Weather—Ohio Suffers Severely

By the Associated Press. Buffalo, Feb. 16.—Railroad trains and electric-car systems were today slowly breaking through the snow drifts piled up yesterday when a six-inch fall of snow was accompanied by a fifty-eight-mile-an-hour gale and temperatures near the zero mark.

Trains from east, west and south were many hours later, and many had been canceled. Traffic on interurban electric lines was suspended for more than twenty-four hours.

One of the worst features of the storm was that it came on the heels of a thaw. Slush soon turned to ice, and switches and signal systems were crippled.

The railroads today advertised for 1000 extra men to help clear the yards.

The Pennsylvania Railroad announced this morning that the 8:40 Buffalo express, which left Broad street station yesterday, did not reach its destination until late this morning.

For this city, scheduled to leave Buffalo last night at 9:30, was annulled.

Columbus, O